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Queries and Answers

R.E.B.—Is it true that General Oglethorpe was offered the command of the British army at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, and that he declined the honor because he was unwilling to fight the people of a colony of which he was the founder?

This story, which is doubtless untrue, was told by Hugh McCall in his *History of Georgia*, vol. 1, page 325, and by George Bancroft, in his *History of the United States*, vol. 3, page 166. McCall gave as his authority for the statement "The Annual Register," and Dr. T. M. Harris, referring to the subject in his "Biographical Memorials of James Oglethorpe," says: "After careful searching, I do not find the statement * * *. I must doubt, however, that an official offer was made to him, as he was too old to engage in such service; and deem the statement not sufficiently authenticated to be relied on."

B. H. W.—Can you tell me how Colonel's Island, in Liberty County, got its name?

The name of this island was originally Bermuda Island, supposed to have been so called because of the luxuriant growth of the Bermuda grass on it. We do not know when the present name was bestowed upon it, but we are of the opinion that it was about 1748, as, on the 22d of September of that year, the Court of President and Assistants allotted to Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Heron, of Oglethorpe's Regiment, a tract of 500 acres in the colony, and he settled on Bermuda Island. It is the belief of some persons that it was called by the name of Colonel because it is well known that at various periods settlers bearing that title occupied land there. As many of the references are to "The Colonel's Island," it is reasonable to infer that it got its name from the fact that Colonel Heron was the first of that rank to settle on it. Indeed, the following item of information apparently fixes the matter:

In the *Georgia Gazette* of Saturday, December 7, 1797, John Jones, Sheriff of Liberty County, advertised land for sale "on Heron's Island, now know as Colonel's Island."